RAO SAHIB A. K. BHASKAR: Is it because the number of graduates in the backward communities is so large that he is not able to give the answer?

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: No, Sir. The answer is given. There are no statistics.

Arabic instruction.

123. *MR. P. S. MOHAMED (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state the reply of the Dewan given to the Muslim deputation on the question of Arabic instruction in schools?

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Government have no idea to discontinue the existing arrangements and curriculum in Primary schools for the teaching of Arabic. If a school or college or institution for teaching Arabic and allied languages or for imparting Koranic instruction were started with the idea of training Muslim youths in Islamic Culture, Government would view such endeavour with sympathy and would be willing to assist such institutions in the same way as they have helped in the formation of an Arabic Chair in the University. Government are not against the members of any religion imparting religious instruction to the followers of that religion and they have repeatedly declared their policy in the matter. This however is quite a different proposition from Government financing not only the programme of compulsory primary education but of paying the cost of maintaining in addition, denominational schools run by private managements and situate in areas wherein Government have undertaken the entire responsibility for primary education.

MR. P. K. KUNJU: Are we to take it that the existing arrangement will continue?

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Yes, Sir.

Food Advisory Taluk Committee in Mavelikara taluk.

124. *MR. M. K. NILAKANTAN: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there is a Food Advisory Taluk Committee in Mavelikara taluk;

(*b*) if there is one, whether it meets and decides any matter in connection with the food problem; and

(*c*) whether there is any Ezhava member in the Committee?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR (*Director of Food Supplies and Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) It meets occasionally and advises the Tahsildar.

(*c*) Yes.

MR. M. K. NILAKANTAN: May I know the names of the members of the committee?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: I have not got the names, but the one of the members of the committee is an Ezhava.

MR. M. K. NILAKANTAN: May I have at least the number of members of the committee?

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MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: I cannot say.

MR. M. K.NILAKANTAN: Is the Tahsildar submitting a regular report of the minutes of the meeting?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes, Sir. He is submitting the minutes of the proceedings to the Peishkar regularly.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: Is there any general rule as regards the interval between two meetings?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: No, Sir.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: Who convenes the meetings?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: The Tahsildar who is the convener of the committee.

MR. K. M. PAUL (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): May I know whether the Taluk Committee functions now?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes, Sir.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: If the Tahsildar is not very particular of the advice of the Committee he need not convene the meeting. Is that the position?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: No, Sir. Generally Tahsildars convene these meetings at fairly regular intervals.

RAO SAHIB A. K. BHASKAR: May I know whether Assembly members are also members of the Taluk Committees also?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Possibly.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: What is meant by fairly regular intervals? What is the idea?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Whenever the Tahsildar thinks, he should convene a meeting to discuss urgent matters, he calls a meeting. For example, there were two meetings of the Mavelikara Taluk Committee within a fortnight. There was one meeting in Meenam and another in Medam, because the Tahsildar thought it necessary to call the committee.

MR. M. K. NILAKANTAN: May I know whether all the interests in a taluk are represented in a Taluk Committee?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: It is expected to be so Sir.

Paddy or rice purchased.

125. *MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil* cum *Nedumangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether any quantity of paddy or rice was purchased from Madras Presidency in the year 1120;

(*b*) if so, the district from which purchase was made; and

(*c*) the quantity from each district with the average price paid there?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) From the Tanjore District.

(*c*) 948,065 bags of rice of 2 maunds each. The average price paid was Rs. 11-8-0 per maund.

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